



GRANT RECIPIENT
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

YEAR
2006

COUNTY
PORTER

CATEGORY
EDUCATION/OUTREACH

GRANT AWARD
\$8,590

LOCAL SHARE
\$11,792



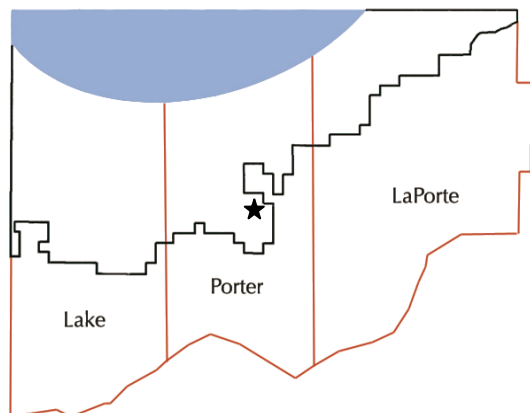
FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN 46304
(219) 983-9912
www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



Keeping Rivers Healthy in Theory and Practice

The Valparaiso University Biology Department has a history of providing a Biology Department Colloquium (occasionally concerning local environmental issues) and, through its Biology Club, of performing twice-yearly Stream Restorations with their volunteer labor and with direction and supplies from Rivertenders, an organization dedicated to wise river management. While open to all, these colloquia and projects were little advertised to the general public, and are therefore poorly attended by them. Funds were sought to focus both the colloquium and the restorations upon our coastal watershed. Local residents and students were thereby given theoretical and practical training in coastal management. First proposed was to increase the local impact of colloquia by focusing their content for one academic year upon practical approaches to environmental problems associated with our coastal rivers and by hosting one presentation from a nationally-recognized speaker on a similar topic of local importance. The audience learned much about the theoretical basis of maintaining a healthy coastal watershed and met speakers and other attendees who actively participate in its management. Upcoming Biology Club stream restoration dates were advertised.

Second, a purchase of supplies and a trailer with a small wet lab to make river monitoring and restoration efforts sustainable was made. Work was done with Rivertenders and NWI Steelheaders by participating in their restoration efforts in Trail Creek and Salt Creek. The local address base was used to invite more participants. Each restoration included discussion and demonstration of chemical and biological monitoring as well as an explanation of the fundamental methodology and goals of river restoration.



RESULT: Training for Keeping Rivers Healthy.